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Message Text

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12
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 SY-07 INSE-00 /016 W
---------- 079787
R 130538Z SEP 73
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7541
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN PASSPORT FRAUD

REF: A. STATE 130271
B. KARACHI 1606
C. STATE 171889

SUMMARY: WE FEAR OUR ABILITY VERIFY PASSPORTS ISSUED AT KARACHI NOW LESSENING. POLICE ENTHUSIASM FOR NABBING SUSPECTS ALSO SHOWS SIGNS OF DECLINE. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT INDICATE TO INS THAT ALERTNESS STILL NECESSARY WITH REGARD TO PASSPORT PHOTOS OF PAKISTANI STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE SEEKING ENTER U.S. TO ATTEND JUNIOR COLLEGES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY ISLAMABAD CONTINUING PRESSURE ON GOP TO ENCOURAGE DECISIVE ACTION ON PART KARACHI AUTHORITIES WHICH MIGHT DETER FUTURE FORGERS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE FEEL OUR ABILITY TO VERIFY SUSPECT PASSPORTS ISSUED KARACHI MAY BE WANING. PASSPORT OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING LESS COOPERATIVE, PERHAPS DUE TO RESENTMENT OF POLICE INVESTIGATION THEIR METHODS AND CONTROLS, OR POSSIBLY TO PRESSURE FROM OFFENDERS OR INTENDED OFFENDERS. NUMBER OF "MISSING" RECORDS INCREASING. ALSO DISTURBING ARE SIGNS THAT RECORDS ON WHICH POST RELYING TO VERIFY PASS-
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PORT DATA ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM TAMPERING.

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2. PERSONS APPLYING FOR PASSPORTS AT KARACHI REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE REQUIRED PRODUCE EVIDENCE IDENTITY AND THREE PHOTOGRAPHS. PROOF APPLICANT IS GENUINE BUSINESSMAN OR STUDENT, FINANCIAL GUARANTEES AND POLICE CLEARANCES NO LONGER REQUIRED. OF THREE PHOTOS GIVEN TO PASSPORT OFFICIALS, ONE IS USED IN PASSPORT, ONE IS ATTACHED TO DECLARATION (APPLICATION) FORM, GIVING PARTICULARS OF APPLICANT, AND ONE IS ATTACHED TO REGISTER BOOK, WHICH LISTS ISSUED PASSPORTS IN SEQUENCE, GIVING NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON TO WHOM PASSPORT ISSUED.

3. WE ARE ENCOUNTERING FOLLOWING KINDS OF PROBLEMS IN ATTEMPTING VERIFY PASSPORTS: REGISTER PHOTOS MISSING (SOMETIMES AN ENTIRE PAGE WILL HAVE NO PHOTOS); REGISTER PHOTOS APPARENTLY SUBSTITUTED (PHOTOS OR PAGES TORN, BATTERED); PASSPORT DECLARATION FORMS MISSING; OR REGISTRY BOOK BLANK FOR A PARTICULAR NUMBER WHICH POST WISHES CHECK. IN ONE RECENT CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, PHOTO IN REGISTER BOOK APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH, AND DECLARATION FORM FOR THAT PARTICULAR PASSPORT MISSING, THOUGH ALL OTHER FORMS IN SEQUENCE WERE FOUND. IN ANOTHER CASE, POLICE SOUGHT DECLARATION FORM WHICH POST SECURITY OFFICER HAD EARLIER SEEN IN ORDER SEIZE IT AS EVIDENCE AGAINST ACCUSED IMPERSONATOR BUT FORM NOW NOT AVAILABLE.

4. ALSO APPEARS POLICE BECOMING RELUCTANT TAKE ACTION AGAINST SOME VIOLATORS. RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, POLICE INDICATED TO POST SECURITY OFFICER THAT AN ACCUSED WAS RELATED TO IMPORTANT FIGURE AND THEY HESITANT PROCEED WITH INVESTIGATION. IN ANOTHER CASE, STUDENT ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN PHOTO SUBSTITUTION RACKET TOLD CONGENOFF WITH WHOM HE ACQUAINTED THAT PERSON FOR WHOM HE HAD TAKEN ENGLISH TEST QUESTIONED BY POLICE, BUT THAT POLICE LEFT WHEN BRIBE OF ONE HUNDRED RUPEES OFFERED AND ACCEPTED.

5. POST PLANS CONTINUE REFUSE ISSUE VISAS TO PERSONS BEARING SUSPICIOUS PASSPORTS WHICH CANNOT BE VERIFIED AND WHO CANNOT OFFER ANY OTHER CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF THEIR IDENTITY.
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6. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT ADVISE INS VIGILANCE STILL NECESSARY WITH REGARD HOLDERS OF PAKISTANI PASS-PORTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ENTERING U.S. ON STUDENT VISAS TO ATTEND JUNIOR COLLEGES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY ISLAMABAD CONTINUING PRESSURE ON GOP TO ENCOURAGE DECISIVE ACTION ON PART KARACHI AUTHORITIES TO APPREHEND ORGANIZERS OF PHOTO SWITCH OPERATION.

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